

VZCZCXYZ0008  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHC #3076 0122228  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 122216Z JAN 09  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 3669

UNCLAS STATE 003076

SIPDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR CROCKER FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [AMGT](#) [OVIP](#)  
SUBJECT: THANK YOU

BEGIN TEXT:

Ryan:

I was very pleased to join you, your staff and many of our Iraqi friends to open the New Embassy Compound last week. The NEC is a tangible symbol of the magnitude of our continuing commitment and the ongoing progress in the U.S.-Iraq bilateral relationship. My discussions with Iraqi leaders affirmed that progress and the criticality of Embassy efforts - past, present and future.

Please pass my appreciation to everyone at the Embassy for their work to make my trip a success -- you, Christine and your residence staff made my stay very comfortable again; Adam Ereli and his staff coordinated a wonderful ceremony; Christian Hurvath and his team, Ali Khedery and Col Mozzillo made last-minute logistical changes work seamlessly. My thanks also to control officers John Fox and Joe Cassidy.

Finally, I am very honored that you named the Embassy's walkway after me. I am delighted to continue to be associated with the Embassy and its excellent staff, and wish you all best in your future endeavors.

Thank you,  
John

END TEXT  
RICE